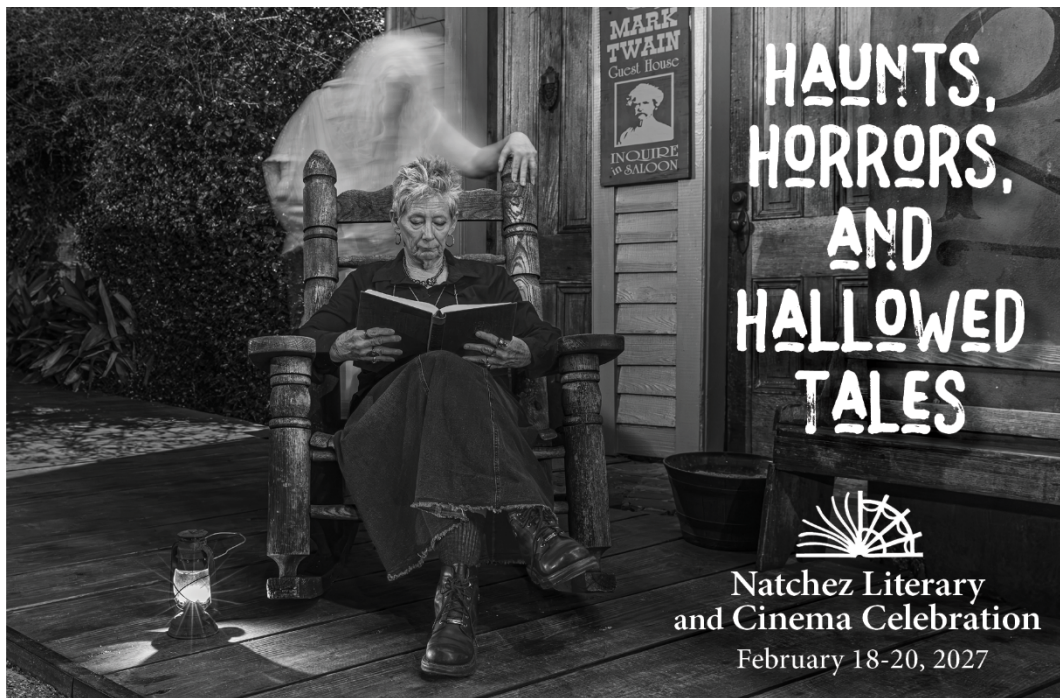




Thursday, February 18, 2027 – King’s Tavern, 613 Jefferson Street

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Write Something Wicked: A Southern Gothic Writing Workshop

Explore the darker side of storytelling inside King’s Tavern, Natchez’s most haunted building. This hands-on workshop introduces Southern Gothic storytelling through setting, atmosphere, and theme, with guided writing exercises designed to inspire a haunting, spooky, or supernatural story. Participants will ultimately create an original Southern Gothic flash fiction piece set in Natchez. Open to select Mississippi high school and Co-Lin students, ages 17-21; space is limited.

King’s Tavern, 613 Jefferson Street

12:30 p.m.

Vance Fellows and William Winters Scholars Luncheon

Private event, by invitation only

King’s Tavern, 613 Jefferson Street

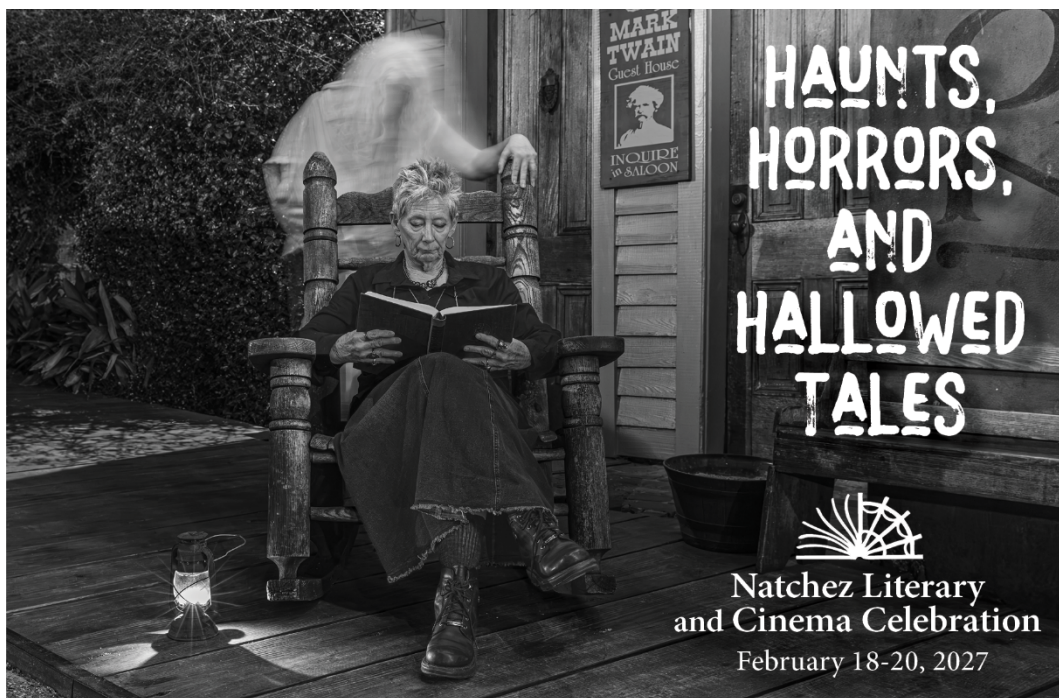
7:00 p.m.

Ticketed Event - \$25

Dark Tales & Restless Spirits: A Night with Paranormal Investigator Scott McCoy

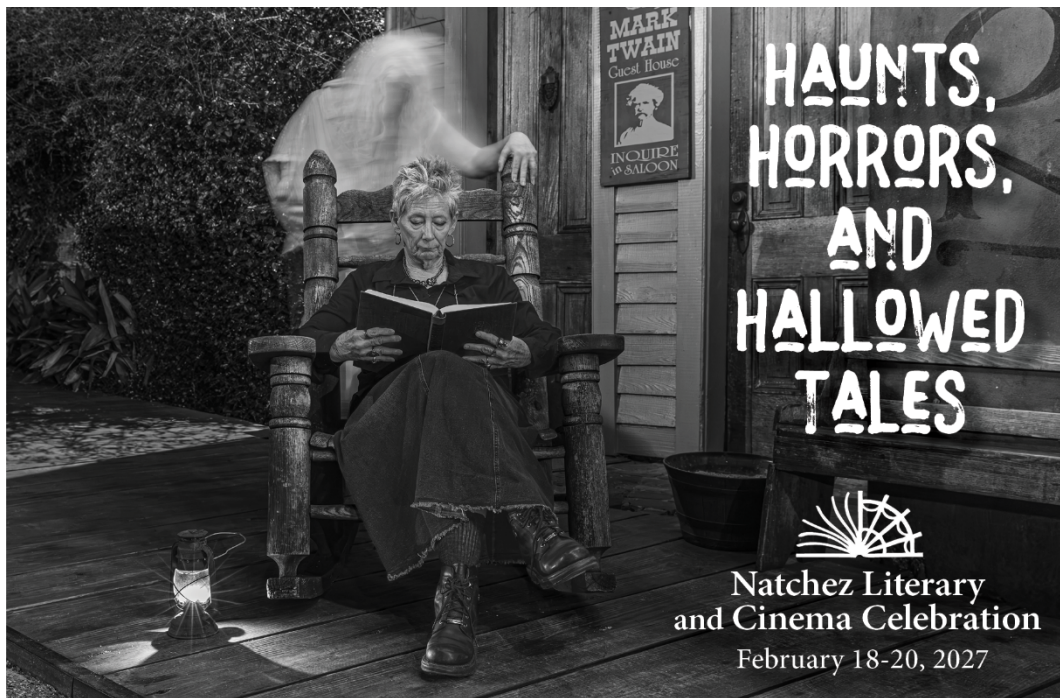
Ghost stories, live music, and a trip into the haunted basement make for a night unlike any other. Paranormal expert Scott McCoy of Natchez Ghost Tours will share some of Natchez’s most chilling tales-and the secrets of telling a great ghost story-before leading small groups on a real paranormal investigation. While groups investigate the spirits of the dead, ChaCha Boo keeps the evening alive with a set of haunting favorites. Beverages will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Smoots, 319 Broadway Street



Friday, February 19, 2027 – Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street

- 9:00 a.m. **NLCC Opening Ceremony** with **Dr. Dewayne Middleton**, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College; **Dan Gibson**, Mayor, City of Natchez; and **Dr. Pernell Goodwin**, Vice-President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus.
Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
- 10:00 a.m. **Eudora Welty's *Where is the Voice Coming From?* and other macabre pieces;** **Michael Pickard**, Eudora Welty Chair of Southern Literature and Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Millsaps College. Dr. Pickard directs the Millsaps Digital Welty Lab and has received multiple honors for teaching, advising, and service, as well as grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and Mississippi Arts Commission. His presentation explores Eudora Welty's ***Where Is the Voice Coming From?*** as well as other macabre pieces, examining Welty's darker fiction and her distinctive approach to mystery, the macabre, and the Southern Gothic.
Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
- 11:00 a.m. ***Hoodoo, Voodoo, and Conjure*, by Jeffrey Anderson**, Professor of History at Texas A & M - Texarkana and leading scholar of African American spirituality and the American South, with a Ph.D. in Southern and African American History and more than two decades of research on hoodoo, voodoo, and conjure. His four books on the subjects offer accessible introductions to these spiritual traditions, exploring their beliefs, practices, history, literary influence, and presence in popular culture. They include ***Hoodoo, Voodoo, and Conjure: A Handbook***, and the newly released ***The Voodoo Encyclopedia: Magic, Ritual, and Religion and Voodoo: An African American Religion***
Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
- 12:00 p.m. **Break for Lunch**



2:00 p.m.

Murder in the Bayou*, by Ethan Brown**, an investigative journalist, private investigator, and author of four previous books, ***Murder in the Bayou, ***Queens Reigns Supreme***, ***Snitch***, and ***Shake the Devil Off***, which was named one of the Best Books of 2009 by The Washington Post. He has written for New York magazine, The New York Observer, Wired, Vibe, The Independent, GQ, Mother Jones, The Guardian, Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, Details, and The Village Voice. He has appeared on NPR, WNYC, Court TV, MSNBC, Hot 97, and BET to discuss drug policy, street crime, the music business, life in Louisiana, and other issues. His New York Times bestselling ***Murder in the Bayou*** chronicles his five-year investigation into the unsolved murders of eight women in Jennings, Louisiana, and became the basis for the Showtime docuseries of the same name.

Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street

3:00 p.m.

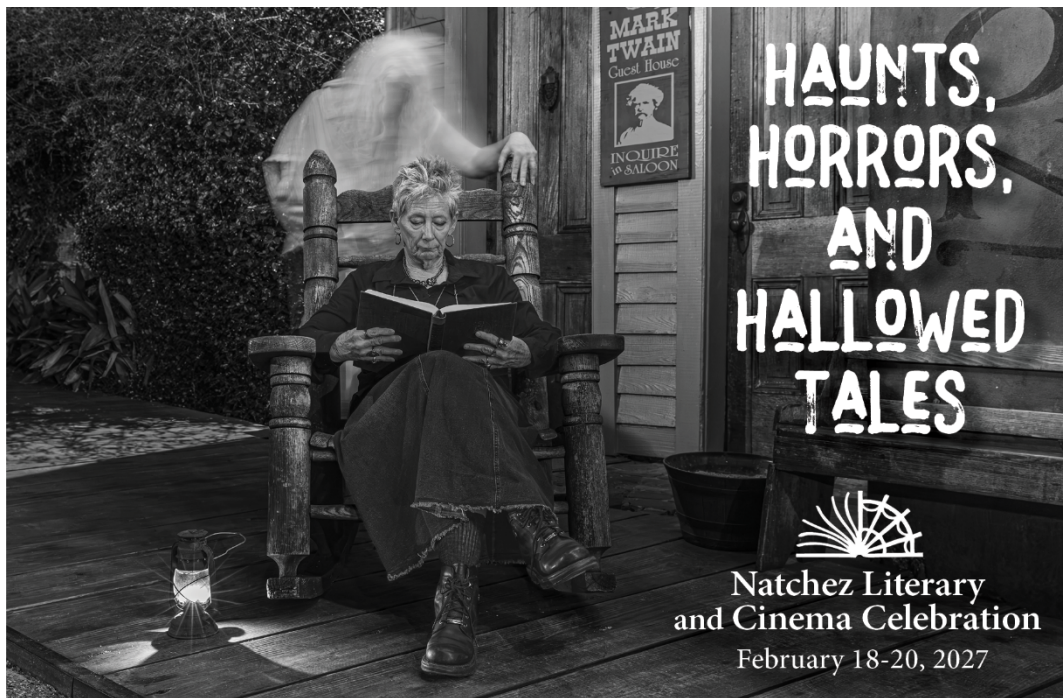
Accalia and the Swamp Monster*, by Kelli Scott Kelley**, Professor of Painting at Louisiana State University, is an award-winning artist whose dreamlike work explores subconscious worlds, hybrid beings, and humanity's relationship with the natural world. Her work has been exhibited in major museums including the LSU Museum of Art and Ogden Museum of Southern Art. ***Accalia and the Swamp Monster combines Kelley's haunting mixed-media artwork with a surreal fairy tale about family, transformation, and a young heroine's journey into a swamp to recover her father's arms from a monster.

Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street

4:00 p.m.

When the Reckoning Comes*, by Dr. LaTanya McQueen**, Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at NC State whose fiction and nonfiction have appeared in more than fifty literary journals, and whose honors include the Disquiet Prize, Walker Percy Prize, and Best of the Net, as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and other arts organizations. Her Bram Stoker Award finalist book ***When the Reckoning Comes follows a Black woman returning to her hometown for a plantation wedding, where the buried history of the land-and the ghosts that remain- begin to demand reckoning.

Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street



6:00 p.m.

Ticketed Event - \$35

An Evening in the Undead South with Professor Eric Gary Anderson

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs at George Mason University. Dr. Anderson specializes in Southern studies, American Indian and Indigenous literatures, and horror and Gothic studies, and is the former president of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. He is the co-editor of *Undead Souths: The Gothic and Beyond in Southern Literature and Culture*, Anderson explores the many forms of haunting in the American South, from ghosts and the undead to the cultural and historical forces that refuse to stay buried.

The Carriage House, 401 High Street

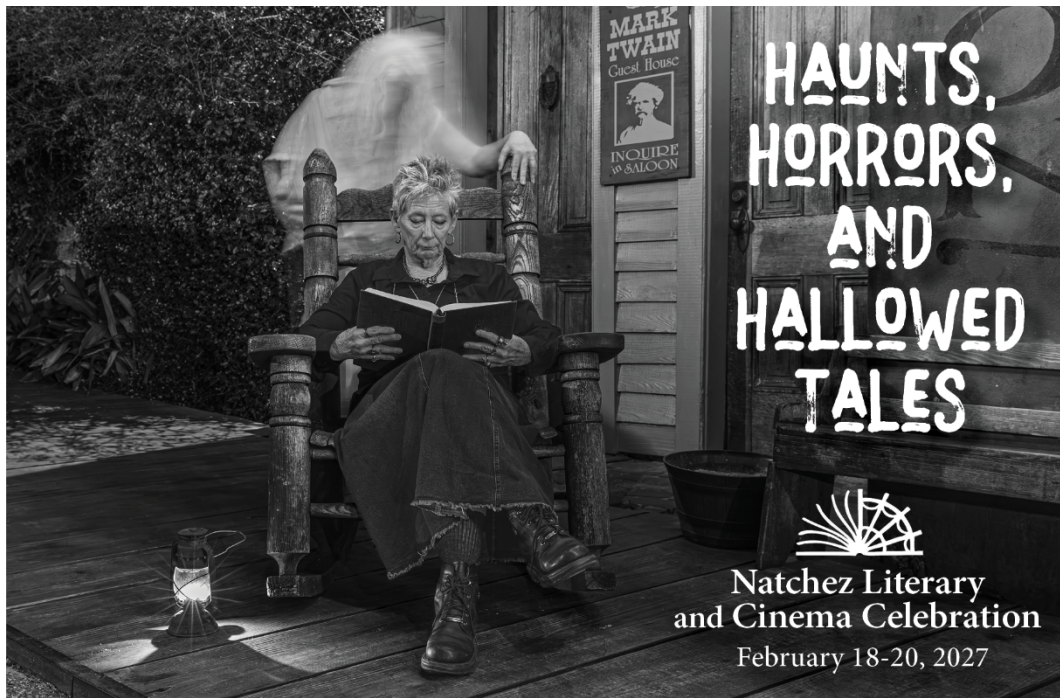
Saturday, February 20, 2026 – Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street

10:00 a.m.

Children's Literary Event

Come gather for a cozy morning of stories, imagination, and just a little bit of magic! Join us at Dixon Books for a special reading with a visiting author, followed by fun crafts and tasty snacks for our youngest readers. Bring your imagination and get ready for a morning of stories, creativity, and a little bit of mystery. It's the perfect way for young readers to discover that sometimes the most wonderful adventures begin with opening a book.

The Dixon, 514 Main Street



2:00 pm.

Ticketed Event - \$35

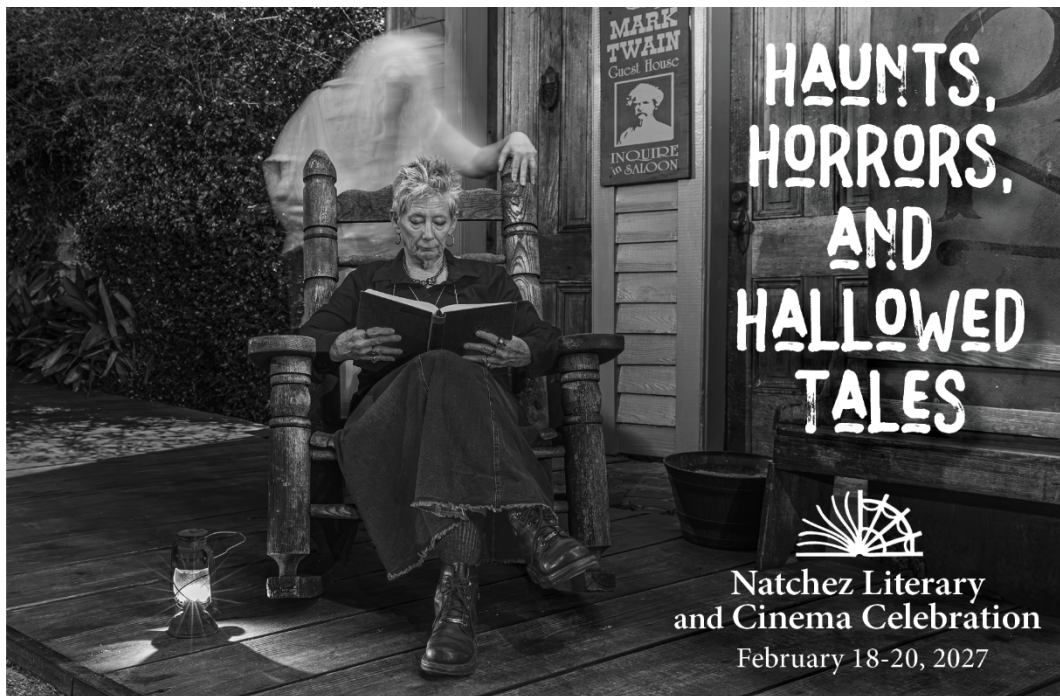
Haunted Natchez: Lunch with Dr. Alan Brown

You've probably seen his book in just about every gift shop in Natchez. Now, come hear the stories from the man who brought them to life. Join Dr. Alan Brown, author of ***Haunted Natchez*** and one of the South's foremost chroniclers of ghosts, haunted places, and Southern folklore, for a special luncheon exploring the stories that have made Natchez one of the most haunted cities in America. With books including ***Ghosts along the Mississippi River***, ***Ghost Hunters of the South***, ***Haunted Places in the American South***, and ***Shadows and Cypress: Southern Ghost Stories***, Brown has spent decades exploring the legends, encounters, and mysteries that linger throughout the South.

Glenfield Historic Estate provides an atmosphere uniquely suited to stories of the haunted South. Step inside this 200-year-old historic home, where generations of the family have shared accounts of ghostly sightings and unexplained encounters. With its historic rooms, lingering legends, and generations of stories attached to its walls, Glenfield provides the perfect setting for an afternoon with one of the South's great storytellers of the supernatural. Enjoy a light luncheon, settle in, and let Dr. Brown take you behind the stories of the haunted South.

Ghost tours of Glenfield Historic Estate are available separately. Tickets may be purchased through their website.

Glenfield Historic Estate, 6 Glenfield Lane



2:00 p.m.

Stories by the Fire

Gather around the fire and enter the world of traditional Native American storytelling. A Native American folklorist will share traditional tales passed down through generations—stories of spirits, the natural world, heroes, tricksters, and the mysteries that live just beyond what we can see. By firelight, these ancient stories take on new life, inviting us to listen, imagine, and experience the power of storytelling as it has been practiced across Native cultures for generations.

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, 400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard

4:00 p.m.

Student Mixer

Private event for William Winter Scholars only.

Get ready for *Sinners* with a pre-show party just for our William Winter Scholars! Come meet fellow students from across Mississippi, make your own movie-inspired mask, learn some horror makeup tricks, and get dressed up for the big-screen experience. While you create your look, test your horror knowledge with trivia, compete for bragging rights, and get in the mood for a night of blood, blues, and Southern Gothic thrills.

Location TBD

6:00 p.m.

Sinners: Blood, Blues & the Mississippi Delta

Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Experience Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* on the big screen, a Southern Gothic story where music, folklore, race, and the history of the American South collide. Following the screening, Dr. LaTanya McQueen, Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, and Dr. Eric Gary Anderson will lead a panel discussion exploring the film's commentary on race and the South, including its portrayal of Black culture, identity, violence, and the forces—both historical and supernatural—that shape the story.

The blues are calling. The reckoning is coming.

Costumes encourage. Come dressed as your favorite sinner.

Natchez Room, Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street